

Message Text

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NODIS CHEROKEE

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, XF

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON

1. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON CALLED ME TO JERUSALEM TONIGHT TO DISCUSS CABINET CONSIDERATION OF LATEST INTERIM AGREEMENT PROPOSAL AND TO CONVEY MESSAGE THAT IN RESPONSE TO QUOTE VERY HIGH STATE OF EGYPTIAN ALERT UNQUOTE OVER PAST TWO DAYS AND CERTAIN SIGNS THAT EGYPT MIGHT BE CONTEMPLATING A CANAL CROSSING, GOI THIS AFTERNOON HAD ORDERED A SMALL MOBILIZATION(INVOLVING A FEW THOUSAND PERSONNEL). HE STRESSED THAT ISRAELI ACTION WAS PURELY PRECAUTIONARY IN NATURE AND THAT ISRAELIS WERE NOT EXPECTING AN EGYPTAIN OFFENSIVE. ALLON MADE CLEAR THERE WOULD BE NO REPEAT NO PUBLICITY ISRAELI ALERT RESPONSE IN ORDER AVOID ESCALATIO OF POTENTIALLY INFLAMMATORY SITUATION. WE ARE SENDING SEPARATE MESSAGE ON DETAILS MOBILIZATION.

2. ALLON HAD STARTED OUR MEETING WITH AN EXPLANATION OF THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL OF THE MAPS WHICH DINITZ HAD TAKEN TO WASHINGTON AND WERE SUBSEQUENTLY GIVEN BY EILTS TO SADAT. HIS DESCRIPTION OF THE ISRAELI PROPOSAL WAS SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME AS THAT DESCRIBED IN YOUR MESSAGE. ALLON SAID THE VERY LONG CABINET MEETING FINALLY ARRIVED AT A CONSENSUS TO APPROVE THE GOVERNMENT'S SUBMISSION OF ITS PROPOSAL TO EGYPT AS A PART OF A QUOTE PACKAGE DEAL UNQUOTE. HE SAID THAT THE NEGOTIATING TRIUMVIRATE, WITH SOME DIFFERENCES OF EMPHASIS, HAD

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ALL BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION. THE CHIEF

OF STAFF, HE COMMENTED, HAD MADE A BRILLIANT PRESENTATION AND EXPLANATION OF ALL THE VARIOUS FACTORS INVOLVED. A WEEK AGO, ALLON THOUGHT, A POSITIVE DECISION COULD NOT HAVE BEEN REACHED BY THE NEGOTIATING TEAM WITHOUT RESERVATIONS BY SOME MEMBERS (PRESUMABLY MEANING PERES). HE WAS HAPPY THIS WAS NOT NOW THE CASE.

3. ALLON STRESSED THAT VITAL ELEMENT IN THE ACCEPTABILITY OF THE PROPOSALS TO THE CABINET WAS THE U.S. PRESENCE IN THE PASSES AT SIX WARNING STATIONS(HE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT THERE WAS FIRM AGREEMENT TO THIS IN WASHINGTON, AT LEAST IN PRINCIPLE).

4. ALLON CAREFULLY MADE POINT THAT WHILE GOVERNMENT HAD CABINET'S APPROVAL TO PRESENT ITS PLAN TO EGYPTIANS, THIS PLAN WOULD RECEIVE FINAL CABINET APPROVAL ONLY AS PART OF A PACKAGE DEAL: THE U.S.- ISRAELI BILATERAL ASPECTS WOULD HAVE TO BE TIED DOWN BEFORE FINAL AGREEMENT COULD BE GIVEN. IN THIS CONTEXT, HE SAID HE THOUGHT IT VERY IMPORTANT TO GET AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE A START ON NEGOTIATING THESE OTHER ASPECTS. AT THE END OF OUR SESSION ALLON ASKED ME TO STAY BEHIND IN ORDER PRIVATELY TO EXPLAIN FALL-BACK POSITION WHICH HE SAID COULD BE PRESENTED AS AN AMERICAN PROPOSAL IF NECESSARY AND IF YOU AGREE. THIS INFORMATION WAS ONLY FOR MY EARS AND ONLY THE THREE MEMBERS OF THE ISRAELI NEGOTIATING TEAM WERE PRIVY TO IT. AS I LEFT THE FOREIGN MINISTER I AGAIN WENT OVER OUR CONVERSATION WITH REGARD TO A POSSIBLE ISRAELI ROLE IN BLOCKING THE HAWK DEAL, AS I HAD LAST NIGHT WHEN I SAW HIM AT DINNER. ALLON CONTINUES TO BE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE ARRANGEMENT, POINTING OUT THAT PROVIDING JORDANIANS WITH FOURTEEN BATTERIES WOULD ALMOST GUARANTEE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN NEXT WAR, THOUGH HE RECOGNIZED, AS I POINTED OUT, THAT THIS WOULD NOT BE THE ONLY FACTOR INVOLVED IN SUCH A JORDANIAN DECISION. HE AGREED, OF COURSE, THAT JORDANIAN ARMS LINK WITH U.S. WAS FAR PREFERABLE TO ONE WITH SOVIETS, BUT HE WAS NOT AT ALL SURE THAT CUT BACK IN HAWK DELIVERIES WOULD FORCE KING TO

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GO SOVIET ROUTE; AND HE FELT IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY SAUDIS WOULD PERMIT THEIR MONEY TO BE USED THIS WAY. HE HOPED WE COULD PERSUADE KING TO MODERATE HIS APPETITE AND BE SATISFIED WITH THREE BATTERIES OR AT LEAST MUCH LESS THAN FOURTEEN. MEANWHILE HE COULD ASSURE ME THAT ISRAELIS WOULD CAREFULLY REFRAIN FROM TRYING TO INFLUENCE THE DEBATE NOW GOING ON

IN WASHINGTON.

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